



Fw: Florida Phosphate Congressional
Silvina Fonseca to: Brad Jackson, Stuart Walker

04/06/2011 11:40 AM

From: Silvina Fonseca/DC/USEPA/US
To: Brad Jackson/R4/USEPA/US@EPA, Stuart Walker/DC/USEPA/US@EPA

FYI.

Silvina Fonseca, Environmental Engineer
Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation

Phone #: 703-603-8799

Fax #: 703-603-9104

----- Forwarded by Silvina Fonseca/DC/USEPA/US on 04/06/2011 11:40 AM -----

From: Silvina Fonseca/DC/USEPA/US
To: Derek Matory/R4/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 04/06/2011 11:39 AM
Subject: Fw: Florida Phosphate Congressional

See the note below that has the final response that was sent, however, we have not seen a signed copy.

Silvina Fonseca, Environmental Engineer
Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation

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----- Forwarded by Silvina Fonseca/DC/USEPA/US on 04/06/2011 11:35 AM -----

From: Melissa Dreyfus/DC/USEPA/US
To: Silvina Fonseca/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 04/06/2011 10:11 AM
Subject: Re: Florida Phosphate Congressional

Hi Silvina,

Attached is the Word document that we uploaded and Jim approved. It looks like the OSWER IO approved and sent it along as well, but no signed copy has been uploaded yet. Steward has asked for a copy of the signed document too, so I'll add you to that list.

Melissa



FL phosphate radiation - response 3.24.11.doc

Melissa Greer Dreyfus
Environmental Health Scientist
OSWER/OSRTI
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Phone: 703-603-8792



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<http://www.epa.gov/40th>

Silvina Fonseca

Hi Melissa, Can you send me the final Congressi...

04/06/2011 10:06:58 AM

From: Silvina Fonseca/DC/USEPA/US
To: Melissa Dreyfus/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 04/06/2011 10:06 AM
Subject: Florida Phosphate Congressional

Hi Melissa,

Can you send me the final Congressional response for the Florida Phosphate Site we finalized last week?

Thanks!

Silvina Fonseca, Environmental Engineer
Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation

Phone #: 703-603-8799
Fax #: 703-603-9104

The Honorable Dennis A. Ross
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Ross:

Thank you for your letter of February 16, 2011, to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lisa Jackson regarding former phosphate mines in Florida. Administrator Jackson asked that I reply on her behalf. I appreciate your concern with EPA's activities related to phosphate mining in Florida, as it is a major state industry, covering over 800 square miles.

Since 2001, state and federal agencies, including EPA, the Florida Department of Health (FDOH), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), have been trying to understand the potential for exposure to radiation associated with phosphate mining. EPA did conduct an aerial survey of a portion of a site in Plant City, Florida in January, 2011. This test was conducted to determine the correlation between aerial and ground-based measurements. The pilot demonstrated an excellent correlation with the aerial measurements. This suggests that an aerial approach could cost about one tenth of the cost of ground measurements. EPA is now considering a larger-scale aerial survey to collect data related to phosphate mining sites and background areas for summer 2011.

That a site or an area may have an aerial survey does not mean it is necessarily a cause of concern, or indication that remedial action is needed. Surveys are also useful tools for confirming areas that are not considered to pose potential health or ecological risks.

EPA is continuing to work with the State (FDOH, FDEP) and ATSDR in this data gathering and interpretation effort. We are also happy to work with your office and provide briefings and information that can provide a better understanding of EPA's perspective on radiation contamination related to phosphate mining, as well as our strategy to assess potential risks to human health and the environment. EPA remains committed to a collaborative process with state and local governments and other stakeholders prior to conducting any aerial survey of this magnitude. We will reach out to local governments and citizens as we proceed, to ensure that they are informed and involved.

Again, thank you for your letter and for your interest in this issue. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may call Carolyn Levine, in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at (202) 564-1859.

Sincerely yours,

Mathy Stanislaus
Assistant Administrator